

# 2020 CHARLES E. SHANNON COMMUNITY SAFETY INITIATIVE SPRINGFIELD

Funded Partners: Greater New Life Christian Center, Hampden District Attorney's Office, Martin Luther King, Jr. Family Services, New North Citizens' Council, Salvation Army, South End Community Center, Springfield Boys & Girls Club, Springfield Boys & Girls Club Family Center, Springfield Parks & Recreation Department, Springfield Police Department, YMCA Dunbar, YWCA of Western Massachusetts

Funded by the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security's Office of Grants and Research, the Charles E. Shannon Community Safety Initiative (Shannon) is modeled after the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's Comprehensive Gang Model. Shannon is a multi-sector approach used to address a community's gang and youth violence problem. Each community receiving Shannon funding demonstrates the presence of risk factors for youth and gang violence. Shannon participants must be between the ages of 10-24 years.

## Strategies, Outcomes, and Funding Allocation\*

Total Funding: \$1,062,976

Strategies	Outcomes		Funding Allocation
<b>Case Management, Street Outreach, or Intervention</b>	<u>240</u> Received Case Management Services	<u>100</u> Received Street Outreach Services	<b>\$92,872</b>
<b>Community Mobilization</b>	<u>232</u> Community Members Attended Events, Meetings, & Presentations	<u>47</u> Community Events, Meetings, & Presentations Held	<b>\$42,768</b>
<b>Education &amp; Employment</b>	<u>366</u> Participated in Education Programs	<u>159</u> Participated in Employment Programs	<b>\$187,427</b>
<b>Positive Youth Development &amp; Recreation</b>	<u>478</u> Participated in Youth Development Programs	<u>463</u> Participated in Recreation Programs	<b>\$454,230</b>
<b>Suppression</b>	<u>111</u> Hot Spot Patrols Completed	<u>179</u> High-Impact Players Arraigned	<b>\$285,679</b>

\*Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Shannon CSI programs may have adjusted programming options (e.g., reduced numbers served to meet restrictions, remote programming) and/or shifted funding allocations.

## Youth Risk Assessments

37% LOW-RISK*	Youth in danger of engaging in risky behavior or gang activity.
35% MODERATE-RISK*	Youth exposed to the same risk factors as low-risk youth, as well as additional risk factors such as truancy.
28% HIGH-RISK*	Youth who are perpetrators or victims of shooting or stabbing violence, and/or are known gang members.

\* % of youth assessed for risk; responses in risk assessment may have been impacted by changes in context due to COVID-19 pandemic.

## Success Highlight

*"One of the program participants upon engagement found himself homeless, to the point of sleeping on the streets when the couches of friends and family were no longer available to him. In addition, he was involved with illicit activities to survive. This participant was found through outreach efforts of staff on the street and immediately engaged and connected with staff, once he knew that they could help. Since the program has been able to navigate him to housing resources, he is now in transitional housing and has been assisted to secure employment at UPS. Not only has the program been able to meet the basic needs of this young man, but he is also engaged in mental health group sessions to help navigate through the unseen waters of trauma that many youth and adolescents carry with them."*

~New North Citizen's Council

Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, Office of Grants and Research, Thomas A. Turco III, Secretary

To learn more visit: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/shannon-community-safety-initiative-csi>

# Community Risk Factors

Massachusetts

Springfield

Total Population (2019 Estimate)	6,892,503	153,606
Population Lives in Poverty	9.4%	28.6%
Unemployment Rate	8.0%	13.8%
Total School Population (2019-20)	983,058	29,336
Economically Disadvantaged	36.6%	81.8%
High School Dropout Rate	1.8%	4.4%

Sources: [www.census.gov/quickfacts](http://www.census.gov/quickfacts); [profiles.doe.mass.edu/](http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/); [www.mass.gov/lwd/economic-data/](http://www.mass.gov/lwd/economic-data/)

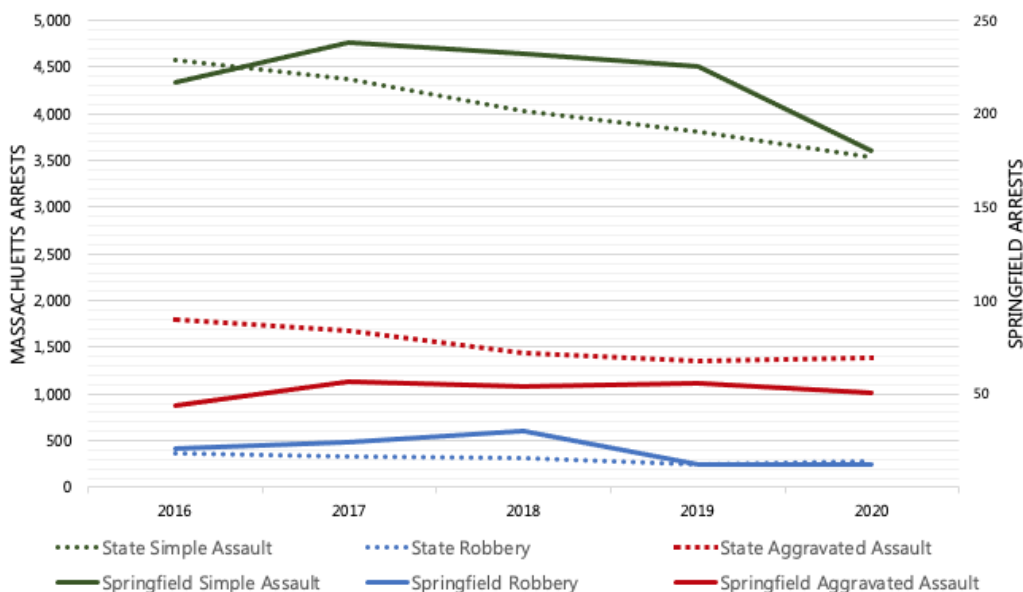
## Gang Activity in Springfield

33  
Street Gangs

920  
Gang Members  
under 25

In 2020, the Springfield Police Department confirmed 33 gangs (12 national gangs and 21 local gangs) comprising an estimated 1,804 members and associates, of which 51% were under the age of 25. Gangs claimed a major share of the heroin market, resulting in increased drug-related shootings, assaults, and robberies; this activity has been expanding into the suburbs and neighboring states. Gang members used social media for recruitment, fueling tensions between rival gangs and members of the same gangs. Eleven of the 18 homicides that occurred during 2020 (61%) involved gang members. Springfield's murder rate (11.6 per 100k) is generally higher than Boston, Phoenix, AZ and L.A., CA to name a few.

## 5-Year Crime Trends for Young People Ages 10-24, 2016-2020



### Changes in Crime for Young People Ages 10-24, 2016-2020

#### Simple assaults in...

- Massachusetts decreased 23%
- Springfield decreased 17%

#### Robberies in...

- Massachusetts decreased 24%
- Springfield decreased 43%

#### Aggravated assaults in...

- Massachusetts decreased 22%
- Springfield increased 16%

Information contained in this report is from funding applications, reports supplied by the site, MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, US Census, MA Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, and Office of Grants and Research / Research Policy and Analysis Division. Special thanks to the Statewide Research Partner, the Center on Crime and Community Resilience at Northeastern University, for preparing this brief.